



## Paradigm Shift: Improving and Modernising NAMRIA

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I have been with NAMRIA for more than 11 years now and for some of those years, we would have to lobby for funding from Congress. But now, it is the lawmakers themselves who demand data from us and offer to support us. There is a greater appreciation for geospatial data and how important it is because of climate change and geohazards.

Under NAMRIA's new Strategic Plan, an outcome of the PAHRODF intervention, one of the strategic initiatives identified was intensifying the development of the Philippine Active Geodetic Network (PageNET)—the network of permanent Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) stations, all over the Philippines. Our aim is to deliver reliable, accurate, and up-to-date geospatial information.

My unit oversees the establishment and operation of this network—from reconnaissance, pre-installation, installation, and testing. We target five GNSS stations every year.

The geodetic network development is in line with NAMRIA's aim of modernising the national geodetic system. One of the activities under the modernisation program is the migration to the geocentric from the local reference system. By 2020, the country will be following the geocentric reference system.

There is growing international and local demand for a modernised geodetic reference system. It is the trend now. We have seen that with the development of the global positioning system (GPS) technology, coming up with a model for the whole world has become possible. Other countries have already adopted the geocentric system. In the conferences we have attended and the journals we have read, the geocentric system is the standard today. Aside from that, international organisations such as the UN and the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), among others, all advocate the use of the geocentric reference system.

So the demand is there—and the technological advancement, of course. We now have this resource, and it is only a question of how it can be fully utilised to support our functions, operations, and mandate.

I guess you could say that since the PAHRODF intervention, NAMRIA has become proactive. We do not just react. We try to anticipate possible events and scenarios and come up with plans for what might happen next.

Before, I felt like it was every man for himself. We have tried to correct that, because by the very nature of our field, everything is supposed to be interconnected. Now, things have

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improved and our long-term vision has become clearer. We do not just strike anywhere or work aimlessly. We now see what our long-term goals are.

I have also seen an improvement in how the personnel in the Policy and Planning Division do their monitoring and evaluation. Maybe it is not just an outcome of the Strategic Planning Workshop, but a combination of all the initiatives of management. For instance, NAMRIA has recently been certified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), so monitoring has become strict. In general, I have seen so much improvement in the organisation—it is as if there has been a paradigm shift.

This has given me a general feeling of well-being. Aside from this, our unit performed very well last year. We were able to set up 10 GNSS stations—that is five more than our target.

With all these changes implemented in NAMRIA, I feel like I have come alive at work. I see that everyone, starting with management, has invested a lot in the process to ensure that we can all work well. More than this, top management is showing us that we *should* work well, that this is how things should be at NAMRIA.